



Housing and Neighborhood Development

Sidewalk shoveling takes on new meaning! Neighborhood Associations encouraged to form shoveling teams

Paul Ash has more on his mind than helping his neighbors when he rises early on a snowy morning to clear walkways in the McDoel Gardens neighborhood. Some friendly competition comes in the form of his neighbor, Chuck Guemple, who also shovels the nearby sidewalks.

"We're doing it for the right reasons, but it's a friendly competition," Ash said, noting that the two Marine veterans take pride in one-upping each other at times.

Ash admits that Guemple, a "tough old Marine" armed with a shovel, is enough competition for him and his snow-blower to take on.

"If I don't get out there quick enough, he'll have it shoveled up to my house," Ash said.

Ash began clearing the sidewalk on Allen Street between Rogers and Fairview streets several years ago, and since the formation of the McDoel neighborhood association in 1998, has taken more of an initiative to help those around him.

"I gradually became more aware," Ash said. "I just started figuring out who in the neighborhood needed help and providing it."

Guemple said although there is a competitive spirit, it is not as important as his desire to help others.

"Basically it's to help the neighbors," Guemple said. "To me it's one of the more fun things- it's some mental recreation to me, plus I'm helping the neighbors. I do it basically because it's the right thing to do."

Ash said he is concerned about the several elderly residents who walk east down Allen to Rogers to catch the bus every day.

"Someone in their 70s is a youngster in this neighborhood," Ash said. "That's the people I'm looking out for."

"A lot of them are disabled so they neither have the energy or the money" to shovel, Guemple added.

A new city initiative, Snowbusters, is encouraging people all over Bloomington

to help each other keep neighborhood sidewalks safe and clear. The Council of Neighborhood Associations of Monroe County (CONA) is working to establish a referral list to help connect those willing to shovel with those needing assistance.

Neighborhood Associations are encouraged to form shoveling teams of residents who are willing to help in the event of a major snowfall. Those interested in shoveling walkways on a for-hire basis are also encouraged to get involved.

Dale Kinser, a resident of Prospect Hill, has always been known in his neighborhood as the one who helps others by shoveling when it snows. While he is beyond these days now, he hopes others will keep their neighbors in mind when it comes time for snow.

"It's not only the people who aren't able, but the people who probably can't afford it," Kinser said.

Guemple said if everyone shoveled a few extra sidewalks besides their own, it would take care of the problem. "If everyone did it, we wouldn't need this ordinance," he said.

Those interested in becoming a Snowbuster should call CONA at 331-3979.

Simple Ways To Be a Snowbuster

Do you always shovel your own driveway or sidewalk? Consider taking a few extra minutes to shovel the sidewalk in front of your neighbor's house. A small, simple favor each time it snows will make a big difference

Would you like to earn some extra money this winter? If you own a snow shovel or snow-blower, we can put you in touch with neighbors who will pay for your services.

Do you belong to a neighborhood association or committee? Take the initiative to form a team of neighbors who will shovel the sidewalks of those who need help in your neighborhood.

Don't wait until it snows! To get involved, call 331-3979 visit www.conaonline.org

Energy, Synergy, **ACTION!**

A CONA/HAND WORKSHOP

Saturday, February 5, 2005

9 am—12 Noon

Bloomington City Hall

Do you want to

- **Get your neighbors energized to be involved?**
- **Successfully bring everyone into the discussions on your neighborhood?**
- **Plan for your future?**

Workshop topics include:

Energize with “City Repair”

“City Repair” is an organized group that educates and inspires communities and individuals to transform the places where they live.

Planning and Zoning

How can zoning ordinances protect our neighborhood? Are they really necessary? Who makes up the zoning ordinances?

Managing Conflict

Public meetings and different goals for your neighborhood. Learn how to manage the conflict in a meeting setting to make your point.

Planning a Neighborhood Party

Motivate your neighbors to get to one another!

Visioning for your future

To go somewhere you need a direction. Join us as we begin to vision Monroe County for the future!

Door Prizes:

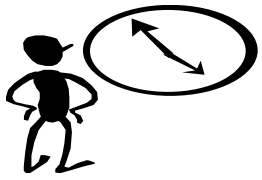
- \$50 to neighborhood with most registrants! (minimum — 5 people)
- \$25 gift certificate to a restaurant
- A one year CONA membership for neighborhood winner represents

MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN!

Registration is not required but recommended to ensure handouts.

Please call **Vickie** at 349-3505 or provinev@bloomington.in.gov or **Ange** at 331-3979 or infocona@conaonline.org.

More information is available at
www.conaonline.org



Time for Neighborhood Cleanups

A Neighborhood Cleanup is an effective way to work together as a neighborhood in order to instill pride in your property as well as your community.

Annually the HAND Department sponsors Neighborhood Cleanups to neighborhoods after a competitive application process. Neighborhood Associations that have demonstrated through their applications the need and ability to conduct a successful clean-up are awarded a HAND sponsored Neighborhood Cleanup. A key factor is having enough volunteers and good communication with the neighborhood to make this a successful event.

The Neighborhood Cleanups can be held on one of the following Saturdays: May 14, May 21, June 11 or June 25 of 2005. The neighborhood organizes the event and provides all the volunteers, HAND provides much needed dumpsters, Hazmat, chipper service and tire disposal, trucks and safety vests. Application online at www.bloomington.in.gov/hand

- **Proposal due in the HAND Office by Friday, March 18, 2005, 4:00 p.m.**

For more information contact Carol Jack or Vickie Provine at 349-3420

Small and Simple Grant Fund



The Small and Simple Grant Fund is a partnership between the City and the neighborhoods. The City supplies cash for a neighborhood project and the neighborhood matches the City's contribution with volunteer labor, donated materials, professional services and cash.

The Small and Simple Grant Fund provides neighborhoods with the opportunity to initiate projects that require \$1,000 or less. It has been designed so neighborhoods can obtain funds to further their development, growth and community building activities. The process has been made very simple to make it easy for neighborhoods to participate.

2005 Application Dates

Monday, February 28

Monday, April 25

Monday, June 20

Eligible projects include:

- Neighborhood Physical Improvement Projects
- Neighborhood Non-Physical Improvement Projects
- Partnership Projects

For an application or more information, please call Vickie Provine, Program Manager at 349-3505 provinev@bloomington.in.gov or online at www.bloomington.in.gov/hand

Blooming Neighborhood Awards

It is time to get your neighborhood involved in the fifth annual **Blooming Neighborhood Celebration!** Neighborhoods have the opportunity to:

- 1) nominate their neighborhood for one of three City **Blooming Neighborhood Awards** - nominations are due by Friday, April 29, 2005. Application available on line at www.bloomington.in.gov/hand
- 2) sign your neighborhood up for a display table about your neighborhood.

This event is for all our neighborhood residents, whether or not your neighborhood is participating in the **Blooming Neighborhood Awards**. This gives neighborhood residents the opportunity to meet, learn and share their insights and activities with each other.

Join the Fun!

When: Saturday, June 4, 2005

Time: 10:00 to noon

Where: Farmers Market

For more information: Contact Vickie at 349-3505 or provinev@bloomington.in.gov



CITY OF BLOOMINGTON

Housing and Neighborhood Development
P.O. Box 100

Bloomington, IN 47402

Phone: 812-349-3505

Fax: 812-349-3582

Email: hand@bloomington.in.gov

*Additional copies are available by
calling HAND at 349-3420*